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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO.

INFORMATION REPORT

GD NO.

25X1A

COUNTRY Yugoslavia

DATE DISTR. 18 July 1951

SUBJECT Exodus of the Border Population from the Vojvodina; NO. OF PAGES 1
Economic Situation in Yugoslavia

25X1C

NO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)

ACQUIRED

25X1A

DATE OF INFO.

SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

REFERENCE COPY

25X1X

1. Residents of the border area of the Vojvodina are reported to be going to the Kvarner region with a view to establishing themselves there, and roving away from the border zone. Peasants in the Vojvodina, whose property has been divided by the Yugoslav-Rumanian border are prohibited by Rumanian border guards from visiting their land in Rumanian territory (sic). The situation along the entire Yugoslav border in the Vojvodina is tense, and border incidents frequently occur.
2. Yugoslavia is reported to be undergoing in addition to a serious agricultural and economic crisis, an industrial crisis as well, the nature of which is not to be underestimated. Government authorities have gone to much trouble to conceal the existence of an industrial crisis, the import of which together with the economic and agricultural situation would bring to light the total failure of the present regime which has pinned the excuse for the agricultural situation to the draught of 1950.
3. Yugoslav industrial efforts, particularly the war production, have consumed considerable stockpiles of raw material. Numerous chemical factories have failed to pass on from the experimental stage of production to mass production. The failure of achieving production norms imposed upon various branches of industry, has obliged the government to import vast amounts of machinery from Austria, Italy and Great Britain. Steel and iron continue to be scarce and deficient. The shortage of medical products is great. They are in general imported from the West, but the quantities are insufficient to meet the demand.
4. United States aid to Yugoslavia in the form of food supplies has only lightly benefited the civilian population. The reason for this is that large stocks have found their way into military shops. Sowing of the current crop has not reached the desired proportions, and prospects for the present year's harvest do not appear to be favorable. The Government's effort to repair the situation by exempting the peasants from the surrender of certain products to the State collection is somewhat retarded.

Document No. _____ G
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☐ Declassified
Class. Changed To: TS S (C)
Auth: HQ 792
Date: 8-8-78 BY: 35
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